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Military spouse directs first play for local little theater.

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Troopers open tennis season

Team takes on Junction City Middle School

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Friday, April 15, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

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Around The Army

San Antonio:

The European Stars and Stripes reported April 13 that an e-mail rumor about Denzel Washington writing a check to build a new Fisher House facility at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, was a little exaggerated.

Washington and his wife did visit the center to participate in a Purple Heart ceremony and Washington did contribute one of the most substantial contributions the foundation has received. Fisher House officials confirmed. But it was not enough to pay the entire amount needed to build the new facility, they added.

For more on this story and news about U.S. military in the Europe and Pacific theaters, visit www.estripes.com on the Web.

Fort Dix:

The Post reported April 7 that a cannon's boom again marked retreat at the end of each work day at Fort Dix.

The post's salute cannon was silenced in late 2001 when the cannon was reported to have worn-out parts, and was unserviceable with no available parts in the Army inventory. On April 1, a 75-millimeter pack howitzer made in 1943 returned the boom to the daily retreat ceremony, at the behest of Col. David McNeil, the installation commander.

For more on this story and more Fort Dix news, visit www.dix.army.mil/PAO/post05/post040805/postonline.htm on the Web.

Fort Polk:

The Guardian reported March 21 that members of the former 1863rd Transportation Company, West Virginia National Guard, would be working the roads on post in a new way.

The 1863rd, which received orders to transition into a military police company in April 2004, are the latest addition of MPs to arrive at Fort Polk to help ease burdens experienced by the Fort Polk based MP companies caused by deployments.

The 75 Soldiers will be performing tasks such as traffic patrolling, force protection, civil liaison and investigation.

For more on this story and other Fort Polk news, visit www.jrtc-polk.army.mil/ on the Web.

Baumholder:

The Herald Union reported recently that the Baumholder military community was preparing for a baby boom. It has been a little more than nine months since Soldiers of the 1st Armored Division returned to Baumholder after their extended stay in Iraq and the local medical staff was bracing to welcome 300 more new members - babies - to the community.

To defuse the baby boom and meet the needs of the military community the Baumholder Health Clinic has teamed up with the hospitals of Idar-Oberstein and Birkenfeld.

For more on this story and other 104th Area Support Group news, visit www.104thasg.hanau.army.mil/hanuin/ on the Web.

Soldiers test Abrams gun mount

By James Tamez
19th PAD

Fort Riley Soldiers tested a new machine gun mount April 4 to evaluate how it could keep gunners inside a tank's turret safe from sniper fire.

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, conducted the field test, one of several the Army planned at different sites to demonstrate the upgraded weapons system.

"What we are demonstrating

today is the Counter Sniper Anti-Material Mount, which is a heavy gun mount designed at Gun Masters Defense Systems," said Bill Smith, president and chief executive officer for GMDSS. "We've built the mount as a part of a kit to upgrade the M1A1 Abrams tank to fight in urban scenarios. It is just one of several things being created to help it in current urban operations."

Smith said the CSAMM allows Soldiers to safely fire a high-pow-

ered machine gun from the interior of the Abrams, providing safety and accuracy for the gunner.

"It is electrically fired using the G9 aircraft cyanoid," Smith said. "It allows the tank crew to have an additional machine gun that can be fired under armor (from within the tank) at night, and it uses the ballistic solutions from the tank's computer system. For an urban fight like the one that is being fought in Iraq, it gives Soldiers an extra weapon for precision fire."

Smith said the CSAMM mounts onto the barrel of the 120mm M256 smoothbore gun, which is the tank's main weapon. This allows for easy zeroing of the weapon held by the CSAMM because it uses the main gun sights.

During the demonstration, the CSAMM held a Browning M2 .50 caliber (12.7mm) machine gun. The M2 is a belt-fed, recoil-operated, air-cooled, crew-served machine gun. It is capable of fir-

ing in automatic and semi-automatic.

The M2 is currently used as an area fire weapon, which allows suppression fire. When it is mounted on the CSAMM, it becomes a highly accurate, precision-fire weapon.

"When we fire it in semi-automatic, it is like having a .50 cal. sniper rifle on your tank," said Sgt. John Carter, gunner for Company

See Abrams, Page 3

Perfect test



Post/Blackmon

Pfc. Michael Mead of Co. B, 1st Bn., 16th Inf. tosses a grenade in a mock bunker April 11 while practicing for the EIB test next week.

Soldiers try for Expert Infantry Badge

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

Some 129 Soldiers at Fort Riley want the right to call themselves expert infantrymen.

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, and seven Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, go to the field next week with expectations of earning the Expert Infantry Badge, often referred to as the "EIB." The distinctive award, a silver infantry musket

displayed on a rectangular blue background with a silver border, is a highly prized peacetime decoration.

"EIB is very difficult. It's important to every infantryman. It makes you stand out when you get the expert infantry badge," said Sgt. 1st Class Ron Tulanowski, non-commissioned-officer-in-charge of EIB testing. "It shows you're skilled in all areas of the infantry."

Soldiers must meet several prerequisites before testing. Each Soldier must complete a 12-mile road march in less than three

hours while carrying a 35-pound rucksack, pass a day and night land navigation test, qualify as an expert with an M-16 rifle and score at least 70 percent in each of the three events of the Army Physical Fitness Test.

Soldiers then go through two weeks of practice before their actual testing begins. During the practice weeks, Soldiers learn about the 34 stations and practice accomplishing each task. The graders walk the

See EIB, Page 7

Burial location moves ahead

Post cemetery can add 50+ grave plots

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Fort Riley's cemetery can handle about 50 more plots, said Kendra Libby of the Directorate of Logistics. She coordinates burial requests for the cemetery.

Reports in the past year or so indicated fewer plots existed in the cemetery, even after post crews tore up roadways in the cemetery to add more plots. Libby and a co-worker recently determined that 55 plots remained as of the end of March after they walked the entire cemetery and measured locations where plots could be dug, she said.

Reserved plots were not counted in that 55, she said. Those reserved spots are still reserved and in addition to new graves that could be dug.

When a veteran or spouse dies, the survivor may elect to be buried in the same plot, Libby explained. The first body would be buried eight feet deep and the second body would be buried six feet deep.

Fort Riley will bury a veteran and spouse together, a veteran and child together or a veteran's spouse and child together. Reservations cannot be made until a veteran or the veteran's spouse dies and will be buried at Fort Riley, Libby said.

The cemetery contains some specific spots for cremated bodies, but those are full. Any new cremated bodies must be placed in a normal burial plot, she said.

Construction of a new veterans' cemetery on the edge of Fort Riley and near the Manhattan Regional Airport won't begin until some time in the future, perhaps as much as 2 1/2 years, said

See Cemetery, Page 2

Community remembers fallen Soldier

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

The Fort Riley community gathered April 8 to remember Cpl. William Dean Richardson for a memorial service at Morris Hill Chapel. Richardson was killed April 3 when he came under enemy attack and fell into a canal in Iraq.

The Army posthumously

awarded the Soldier the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart and Good Conduct Medal. The awards were presented to his wife, Tera Richardson, at the memorial service.

"Dean died heroically while fighting and protecting his fellow Soldiers," said Maj. Kevin West, 3rd Brigade Combat Team rear detachment commander. "Cpl. Richardson's actions demonstrat-

ed selfless service. ... His heroism helped save the lives of his brothers."

Soldiers at the memorial service remembered Richardson for his humor and toughness, as well as for his genuine concern for family, friends and comrades.

As he fought back tears, Staff Sgt. Michael Lacey recounted several memories about the "kind

See Memorial, Page 9



Photos of Cpl. William Dean Richardson were placed at both sides of his helmet, M-16 rifle and boots at his memorial service April 8.

Post/Blackmon





Post news in brief

Helen Gough to retire

Helen Gough, deputyarrison commander, will retire from federal service. A ceremony is scheduled for 4 p.m., April 21 at Ware Parade Field.

NAF job fair set for April 21

A job fair for nonappropriated fund positions is planned for 9 a.m. April 21 at Riley's Conference Center. For more information, call 784-1000.

Toastmasters to meet

Old Bill's Toastmasters will meet from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. April 21 at Junction City Fire Station No. 2 just off South Spring Valley Road, almost to the Interstate 70 underpass. The meeting is free and open to the general public.

Old Bill's Toastmasters is a non-profit organization and affiliate of Toastmasters International. For more information and directions to the meeting location, call Jim Hill at 761-1130.

IACH pharmacy removes Bextra

The Food and Drug Administration has asked Pfizer, Inc., to voluntarily withdraw Bextra from the market. Pfizer agreed to suspend sales and marketing of Bextra. This decision was based on the FDA's conclusion that the overall risk versus benefit profile is unfavorable due to lack of adequate data on long-term cardiovascular safety, reports of serious and potentially life-threatening skin reactions and lack of advantages for Bextra compared with other non-steroidal and anti-inflammatory drugs.

Bextra will no longer be available at Irwin Army Community Hospital. IACH officials recommends individuals stop taking Bextra and call 239-DOCS during duty hours for an appointment or leave a telephone consult for their primary care manager, who will decide which medication would be suitable to replace Bextra.

Army mandates computer training

In an effort to protect data from internal and external threats, the Army established a directive requiring all Army computer users to complete information assurance training no later than June 4.

Computer users can satisfy their IA training requirement by logging onto the Army e-Learning Program, the G-6's preferred method for fulfilling this requirement. Army e-Learning helps streamline the process for fulfilling IA training and testing results are immediately reflected in the Army Training Requirements and Resources System.

In addition, the Army e-Learning program provides every active duty Soldier, National Guardsman, Army Reservist and Army civilian employee access to more than 2,000 Web-based IT, business, leadership and personal development courses from anywhere in the world via the Internet.

For more information on how to access Army e-Learning for IA training, log onto <http://www.us.army.mil>; My Education; Army e-Learning portal page or Army e-Learning at <http://usarmy.skillport>.

Individuals must have an Army Knowledge Online account to access the system.

Skin cancer screening set

Irwin Army Community Hospital's Dermatology Clinic will conduct skin cancer screening April 20 and 27. No referral is required. To make an appointment, call 239-3627.

Employees seek leave donations

CPAC

Several Fort Riley employees are experiencing a personal or a family medical emergency and are facing a period of more than 24 hours of leave without pay. The following individuals have requested that their names be released in order that they may receive donated leave:

• Helen Sample of Medical Department Activity, control number CPA-CLT0504
• Geraldine Wang of MED-DAC, control number CPA-CLT1004
• Veronica Johnson of Public Works, control number CPA-CLT004

• Arnaldo Valdemar of the Directorate of Logistics, control number CPA-CLT2304
• Tom Diehl of the Directorate of Plans, Training and Mobilization, control number CPA-CLT2604

• Erik Donovan of the Directorate of Information Management, control number CPA-CLT0205
• David Klug of DPTM, control number CPA-CLT0305

• Tammy Nobles of the 15th Personnel Support Battalion, control number CPA-CLT0405
• Julianne McElroy of MED-DAC, control number CPA-CLT0505

To donate annual leave to any of these individuals, a civilian employee must complete OPM Form 530-A. This form is located on the CPAC Intranet Web site under "Forms." Completed forms should be forwarded to: Deborah Coulthard, human resources assistant, CPAC.

For additional information on leave donation procedures, contact the activity's administrative point of contact or Coulthard at 239-6080.

Retirees can buy, wear PT uniforms

AAFES

DALLAS – The Army chief of staff has authorized Army retirees to wear the physical fitness and improved physical fitness uniforms. The IPFU is immediately available at all Army and Air Force Exchange Service Army Military Clothing Sales Store locations and online at www.aafes.com.

Army officials recognize that retirees continue to show their support to and affiliation with the Army. "This authorization allowing retirees to wear the PFU or the IPFU symbolizes recognition to our retirees' commitment to continued fitness practices and membership within the Army's family," said MCSS Army Program Manager Maj. Rachel Danielson. "We are very pleased with this announcement and will continue to support our valued retiree customer base."

All personnel, including retirees, who wear the PFU or the IPFU are authorized to wear the clothing as currently worn by personnel in the active Army. Uniform wear policy is described in Army Regulation 670-1 (Wear and Appearance of Army Uniform

and Insignia). Retirees may wear parts of the PFU or the IPFU with civilian attire off installations.

When wearing the PFU or the IPFU as a complete uniform, i.e., trunks and short-sleeve shirt/sweatshirt or sweatpants with short-sleeve shirt/sweatshirt, retirees will:

• Wear only authorized accessories corresponding to those worn by personnel of the active Army.

• Keep the sleeves down on the sweatshirt or jacket, the legs down on the pants and tuck the T-shirt inside the trunks.

• Not roll or push up the sleeves of the IPFU sweatshirt or the IPFU jacket.

• Wear the sleeves of the IPFU sweatshirt cuffed or uncuffed; they may not cuff the IPFU jacket sleeves.

• Wear the black knit cap pulled down snugly on the head with the bottom edge of the cap folded up; retirees will not roll the edge of the cap.

• Pregnant retirees are authorized to wear the T-shirt/sweatshirt outside the trunks/sweatpants.

Cemetery

continued from page 1

Kafer Peele, cemetery program director for the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs. But, mass press has been made since the dwindling number of plots in the Fort Riley Cemetery prompted post and veterans' affairs officials a few years ago to seek a new cemetery for the post region.

Because another cemetery is prohibited from being built within the post's boundaries, Fort Riley officials looked at transferring some land on its boundaries to the state's veterans' affairs agency for construction and maintenance of a new cemetery.

Fort Riley finished its Finding of Suitability to Transfer Land and completed an environmental baseline survey that determined any hazards construction of a new cemetery on the proposed site might create, Peele said.

The Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs then worked with Kansas State University to complete an environmental assessment study that looked at everything, including the presence of any endangered species, he said.

K-State also completed an additional archeological study requested by Fort Riley officials to determine the presence of any unexploded ordnance at the proposed cemetery site, Peele said.

All those studies went to 11 state and federal agencies and to the Veterans Administration in Washington, D.C., for their assessment for potential problems.

Those concerns went to K-State for more answers, Peele

said. Those concerns were answered and sent to everyone again, he added.

The FOST has been published, seeking public comments about the project, Peele said. The FOST was printed as a legal notice in the Manhattan Mercury, The Daily Union in Junction City and in the Fort Riley Post.

The FOST comment period ends May 2, said Monte Metzger of Fort Riley's Directorate of Environmental Services.

When the comment period ends, that packet goes to a Department of the Army agency in Rock Island, Ill., then to the Pentagon for approval to transfer the cemetery site from Fort Riley to the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs. "I've been told that the approval process takes about six months," Peele said.

Once the cemetery site transfer is approved, the project comes back through Army Corps of Engineers for the actual land transfer, Peele said.

After the transfer, the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will take about a year to complete the design phase and another year to build the cemetery, he said.

Kansas set aside planning dollars for the new veterans' cemetery, Peele said, but those planning dollars must be paid back with a grant from the National Cemetery Administration.

The NCA approves grants based on a priority list it creates from requests it receives, but discussions with NCA officials indicate no current delays in the Kansas project, Peele said.

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The M1A2 Abrams tank is shown with TUSK improvements that will adapt it for the urban battlefield.

Tanks grow TUSK for battle survival

By Eric W. Cramer
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Abrams tank is growing a TUSK — that's Tank Urban Survival Kit, a series of improvements, including some still in development.

TUSK will allow Soldiers in the field to improve the Abrams' ability to survive in urban areas, off the traditional battlefield for which it was designed.

Lt. Col. Michael Flanagan, TUSK product manager, said the goal is to help improve the tank's survivability.

"You have to remember, the tank was a Cold War design, aimed at a threat that was always to its front. It's still the most survivable weapon in the arsenal from the front," Flanagan said.

"Today it's a 360-degree fight, and these systems are designed to improve survivability in that urban environment," he said.

The TUSK includes additional protection at the loader's gun station on the turret, the commander's gun station, reactive armor to protect the tank's side from attack by rocket-propelled grenades and slat armor to protect the tank's rear from the same weapon, and the tank/infantry telephone to allow infantry and armor Soldiers to work together in combat.

Flanagan said all the proposed upgrades use off-the-shelf technology, and the goal is for the entire TUSK to be applied by units in the field without requiring a return to a depot for modification.

"The reactive armor, for example, is a product similar to what's on the Bradley (Armored Fighting Vehicle)," Flanagan said. "It's explosive armor that protects the

vehicle."

Another example would be the slat armor designed to protect the tank's rear from RPG attack. It is similar in design and concept to the slat armor used on the Stryker armored vehicles for the same purpose.

The first TUSK component to reach the field has been the Loader's Armored Gun Shield, which provides protection to the loader when the Soldier is firing the 7.62mm machine gun on the Abrams' turret. Flanagan said about 130 of the shields have already been purchased and sent to units in Iraq.

Also incorporated into the loader's firing position is a thermal sight, giving the position the ability to locate and fire on targets in the dark.

"This is the same unit that is used on machine guns carried by infantry troops, and we've incorporated it into the loader's position," Flanagan said.

He said a system that attaches a pair of goggles to the sight, allowing the loader to fire the gun from inside the turret while seeing the thermal sight's image is under development.

Also under development are improvements to the commander's station outside the turret, although different systems are necessary for the M1A2 Abrams and its older M1A1 brethren.

"Because of things we added to the turret in the A2, the commander's station had lost the ability to shoot the .50-caliber machine gun while under armor," Flanagan said.

"We're developing a Remote Weapons Station that will probably be similar to the one used on the Stryker to allow that weapon to be fired from inside the turret," he said.

Flanagan said the design could also allow the use of the crewed weapon station used on "Humvees," but a final determination hasn't been made.

Ultimately, most of these additions will be incorporated into a kit installed in the field and removed in the field as a pre-positioned component for the next Abrams unit to take duty in that location. Flanagan said some kits would begin to reach the field later this year.

At least some of the kits' components may also be included in new Abrams production.

"The loader's shield and the remote weapons station, and the tank/infantry telephone all may be included as regular production items in the tank," Flanagan said.

"It's important to remember that the Abrams will continue to be the dominant weapons system for the Army until at least 2030," he said.

Abrams continued from page 1

B. 1st Bn., 34th Armor. "Yesterday, I hit my target at about 2,400 meters. The accuracy of a high-powered weapon is definitely an advantage to have. I didn't think it could be that accurate at the distances that we were firing."

Carter added that preparing the system to fire accurately is pretty simple. "Set it on there and insert a couple of pins and it is ready to go. Also, adjusting the sights is pretty easy, since it is based off of the tank's main sights. It takes about 10 minutes to zero."

Smith said the accuracy of the weapon is greatly improved by the stability the CSAMM offers.

"After we bolt the mount on and tighten it down, it has proven to be very stable after many main gun firings and after several thousand rounds of .50 cal. firings," Smith said. "The mount has been tested extensively and is still being tested at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md. The mount has held very, very well, as documented by the developmental test command at Aberdeen."

Smith said other upgrades are being tested. These items are part of a program called the Abrams Tank Urban Survivability Kit, called TUSK for short. These items are in various stages of testing. CSAMM is being field tested



19th PAD/Tamez

The CSAMM, which is the mount connecting the M2 .50 caliber machine gun to the barrel of the 120mm smoothbore gun of the M1A1 Abrams, enables Soldiers to fire the M2 from within the tank. Soldiers from 1st Bn., 34th Armor, gave a demonstration of the CSAMM April 4.

in various deployed units. "Right now, there are 18 CSAMMs in Iraq with the 3rd Infantry Division," Smith said. "There are an additional 55 at Fort Stewart, Ga., waiting to be shipped to 3rd ID, which will give them over 70 in theater. The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment is going to have 15 in theater. By the middle of May 2005, there will be 115 CSAMM systems in theater."

Smith also said they have been receiving good feedback from the deployed Soldiers. "Specifically

from the Soldiers of the 3rd ID, the feedback we're getting is they've had no problems zeroing their weapons," Smith said. "As of three days ago, the systems that they are using are fully mission capable. The Soldiers feel that the CSAMM system is something that is going to help save lives."

Carter agrees. "The tank commander will be able to stay in the tank if he has to. Also, we can get a pinpoint shot off from the .50 cal. into a building (without) taking out a good portion of the building."

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Post news in brief

Dental Activity to honor grads

The Dental Activity at Fort Riley will conduct a graduation ceremony April 21 for nine Red Cross volunteer dental assistants who have collectively accumulated more than 7,200 clinical assisting hours.

Graduates are Katrina Bond, Heather Calmbra, Maricel Dunning, Hope Topp, Tricia Distifeno, Letitia Dockery, Nicosia Mullins, Patience Steward and Katherine Porn.

Despite the fact that many of these volunteers have young children, and seven of their nine spouses were or are deployed, these individuals distinguished themselves as motivated, enthusiastic workers and will receive certificates of training from the DENTAC.

Volunteers attended two weeks of classroom training, learning about dental anatomy, materials, instruments, CPR and related medical issues.

Their clinical training consisted of 800 hours of hands-on dental assisting experience that can help the volunteers gain future employment in civilian or federal service sectors.

Pre-retirement class scheduled

The semi-annual pre-retirement orientation will be conducted from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 20 at Riley's Convention Center. Registration will start at 7:30 a.m.

This orientation is for individuals who have submitted a request for retirement, but, any Soldier contemplating retirement in the near future is welcome to attend.

The purpose of this orientation is to present information concerning rights, benefits and responsibilities in conjunction with retirement. Soldiers who are eligible for early retirement (medical reasons only) should also attend.

This orientation is a requirement of AR 600-8-7, and Soldiers may attend as many times as they wish. Spouses of retiring personnel and prospective retirees may also attend.

For more information, contact the Retirement Services Office in Building 210 or call 239-3320 or 239-3667.

Top recyclers earn awards

Small unit winners in the Recycle Troop Incentive Program (TIP) for the 2nd Quarter of fiscal year 2005 are:

- 2nd Battalion, 289th Regiment (Training Support Battalion) (Field Artillery), first place, \$750

- 1001st Military Police Battalion, second place, \$500
- Detachment D, 15th Personnel Services Battalion, and 15th Finance Battalion, tied for third place, \$250 each

Large unit winners in the Recycle Troop Incentive Program (TIP) for the 2nd Quarter of fiscal year 2005 are:

- 1st Engineer Battalion, first place, \$1,000
- 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, second place, \$750
- 125th Forward Support Battalion and 541st Maintenance Battalion, tied for third place, \$500 each

Winners in the Random Act of Recycling office paper are:

- Medical Department Activity, 4,376 pounds, small unit winner, \$250
- 1st Eng. Bn., 4,572 pounds, large unit winner, \$250

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Cav association, museum serve researchers

By Jay Baker
Public affairs intern

Fort Riley is the place to visit for anyone interested in learning the whole history of the U.S. Cavalry. Although prescribed cavalry education stopped in the 1950s, cavalry-minded people today can be found on post studying the role of the horse and the men who rode them from frontier times to the dominance of motorized armor.

The post offers several sources of cavalry-related information. One source is the U.S. Cavalry Association. Visitors can wade through hundreds of primary and secondary source documents stored by the association in Building 247 on Cameron Road on Main Post.

The library materials are carefully cataloged and shelved with help of a part-time library archivist.

Another source is the Custer House and U.S. Cavalry Museum, Building 205, where visitors can reach the past by walking through the visual display area and letting their imaginations wander around the dioramas, videos and pictures.

A third source of information is the U.S. Cavalry Museum archives, which hold hundreds of documents about cavalry units once stationed at Fort Riley and serves as a repository for other Fort Riley unit military history.

The two organizations are different and separate but share a common goal, said Bill McKale, U.S. Cavalry Museum curator.

"Both organizations preserve and promote the history and heritage of the cavalry branch," McKale said, but the organiza-

tions differ in their structure and more visibly in how they interact with the public.

"The U.S. Cavalry Museum is the Army's official museum for the cavalry branch of service. When the branch inactivated in 1950, a lot of the cavalry objects went the way of the four winds. The Army established this museum in 1957 here because the cavalry school was here. The museum is where the Army collects cavalry history," McKale said.

While the museum is a government organization, the U.S. Cavalry Association is a private nonprofit organization established in 1976 by a group of former horse cavalrymen concerned about preserving the memory of the branch, said Patricia Bright, the association's executive director. The members of the association determine the mission and how it's implemented.

The U.S. Cavalry Association interacts with people by conducting the National Cavalry Competition, publishing the quarterly Cavalry Journal and providing information for its members and the general public, Bright said.

The U.S. Cavalry Museum interacts with people by supporting special exhibits in the community, providing historical information to groups and working with the Historical and Archeological Society of Fort Riley, McKale said.

Both organizations accept donated historical items from the public. Neither has the space to display everything.

"We cannot display everything in our collection. We store them, and the Army will maintain those

items long after we are gone," McKale said.

The U.S. Cavalry Association, which normally does not exhibit material, received a restored World War I horse-drawn ambulance a few years ago. The donor stipulated in his will that the wagon be displayed and the association obliged, Bright said. The association also stores artifacts but can trade with other collectors.

The U.S. Cavalry Association's major activity is the library. "We have a lot of information on horses, and we try to cover all aspects of cavalry, filling a niche," said

Robert Smith, the association's library archivist. "Researchers, authors and re-enactors come to the association's library to study," he added.

Fort Riley is an old frontier post that offers a lot of history. McKale classified the U.S. Cavalry Museum as the post's historical reference center. The U.S. Cavalry Association is an official sponsor of the U.S. Cavalry Museum, assisting the museum with some events, Bright said.

"Most questions regarding the post come through the museum," McKale said.

The association fields ques-

tions from the public regarding the entire history of the cavalry, while the museum focuses on the post's history, Bright said.

A unique aspect of the two separate keepers of history is their ability to provide cavalry information in two very different interpretations.

At the U.S. Cavalry Association's building, researchers may read primary documents, such as yearbooks and old training manuals, and view unique photographs. At the U.S. Cavalry Museum, visitors can get an up-close view of history in the Custer House and in the Regimental Museum.

Guard, reserves add benefits

DoD announces Reserve Select health care plan

By Terri Lukach
AFPS

WASHINGTON — A new health care plan, with coverage comparable to that enjoyed by federal employees under the Blue Cross and Blue Shield health insurance plan, will be available to eligible members of the National Guard and Reserve and their families April 25, Defense Department officials announced at the Pentagon.

The new plan, called Tricare Reserve Select, will serve as a bridge for reserve component members entering or leaving active duty who are not covered by civilian employer or other health insurance plans. It applies to all reserve component personnel who have been activated since Sept. 11, 2001, and who

agree to continued service in the Selected Reserve. The coverage will be applied retroactively, officials said.

Principal Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Charles Abell, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Thomas Hall and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Dr. William Winkenwerder announced the plan at a Pentagon news conference.

TRIS is a nationwide, premium-based plan that closely resembles the Tricare Standard coverage of the active duty force. Its rates are based on the premiums for the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Standard Service Benefit Plan for federal government employees. Premiums will be adjusted annually.

Reserve component personnel

and their families now are also eligible for benefits 90 days prior to activation, and for up to six months after demobilization, Hall said.

"For every 90 days of active duty service, Guard and Reserve personnel are eligible for one year of Tricare coverage for a modest fee," Hall told reporters. "That means, for example, that personnel who have served two years of active duty are eligible for eight years of healthcare coverage."

Winkenwerder praised the members of the National Guard and Reserve. "They served with pride and loyalty. And while we have, in the past, offered full healthcare benefits for these servicemembers, and for their families, this change will shortly offer a more comprehensive benefit."

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THE COLUMBIAN
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including the Kansas Guard. In January, Sebelius announced the Kansas Military Bill of Rights, a package of incentives and benefits designed to ease the burden of service in the armed forces.

At that time, the governor signed an executive directive allowing the state to make up the difference between pay and allowances National Guard members and reservists receive from the military and their state salary at the time they were called to active duty. Additionally, a one-time payment of \$1,000 goes to state employees in the National Guard and reserves upon activation for 180 days or more. These payments are retroactive for all activations since Sept. 11, 2001.

As part of Kansas' commitment to residents in the military, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius signed a bill April 6 that provides income tax exemptions for bonuses received by Kansas who serve in the armed forces.

Beginning in the current tax year, Kansas who are members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including the Kansas Army and Air National Guard, will receive an individual income tax exemption for recruitment, sign-up or retention bonuses. The bill also exempts educational and student loan repayments received by taxpayers as incentives related to their service in the armed forces,





Commentary

Riley Roundtable

This week's question:
What is the best spring and summer activity for people at Fort Riley to do and enjoy?



"I work a lot. I like to work. I like to go to the park with my kids. There's one park in Manhattan, Cico Park, I like."

Billy Lee Bogdan
Land surveyor
Contract employee at Fort Riley
Home: Just moved from Florida.
Temporarily living with sister at Fort Riley



"Sports, like golf, football and running. I played at Custer Hill Golf Course this past weekend. It's a pretty good course. A couple of the holes are pretty tough."

1st Lt. David Simmons
Executive officer
Company B, 1st Battalion,
16th Infantry
Home: Savannah, Ga.



"I like to take my 2-year-old son, T.J., to the city park in Millford. He likes to swing and ride the push merry-go-round."

Pfc. Thomas Strout
Small arms repairman
1st Maintenance Company
Home: Midwest City, Okla.



"Check out the Konza Prairie hiking trails. There's a place in Manhattan called Pillsbury Crossing. It's a swimming hole with rope swing popular with college kids and Soldiers."

Sgt. James Thompson
Commander's gunner
Company B, 1st Battalion,
34th Armor
Home: Winnsboro, Texas



"One of the nicest things to do is to get a Petersen's Guide (to birds) and to check out the kinds of birds in the area. They're all so happy this time of year, building nests."

Elena Graves
Employee at the U.S. Army Defense
Ammunition Center
on temporary duty at Fort Riley
Home: McAllister, Okla.

E-mailed Roundtable response from Allison Oxendine, former Soldier now living in Manhattan:
"Bike riding. There are a few areas that are great for that. The River Walk Trail and over by Moon Lake are my personal favorites."

Next week's question:
If you were to garrison (post) command sergeant major, what would you do to improve Fort Riley?

Post Reader Feedback Form

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Mix of unit, community news	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photo coverage of events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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What are your concerns or suggestions for improvement?

Your name (optional) and phone number (if you would like to talk about your ideas): _____

Personal health

Skin needs special care to battle sun

By Dr. (Maj.) Mark Hall
IACH



Dr. (Maj.) Mark Hall

Over exposure to the sun's invisible rays — ultraviolet A and ultraviolet B — can cause skin damage. The damage can be immediate as well as long term, with effects ranging from sunburn, rashes and cell or tissue damage to premature wrinkling and skin cancer.

Many skin changes that often are identified with aging actually result from skin damage by too much sun.

Experts estimate that a significant percentage of our exposure to sun occurs by age 18. That's why it's especially important to apply sunscreens with a minimum SPF of 15 (preferably SPF 30) about 30 minutes before they go outdoors. Infants 1 year old and younger should be kept out

of direct sunlight. The two most common kinds of skin cancer are Basal Cell Carcinoma and Squamous Cell Carcinoma. BCC accounts for 80 to 90 percent of all skin cancers in the United States. It is a slow growing cancer that seldom spreads to other parts of the body.

SCC also rarely spreads, but it does so more often than BCC. A less common skin cancer, Malignant Melanoma, appears and spreads rapidly to other parts of the body.

The most common warning sign of skin cancer is a change on the skin, especially a new growth or sore that doesn't heal. Skin cancer has many different appearances. For example, it may start as a small, smooth, shiny, pale or waxy lump. Sometimes the lump bleeds or develops a crust. Skin cancer can also appear as a flat, red spot that is rough, dry or scaly.

BCC and SCC are found mainly on areas of the skin that are exposed to the sun — the head, face, neck, hands and arms. However, skin cancer can occur anywhere. Changes in the skin are not sure signs of cancer. It is important to see a doctor if any symptom lasts longer than four to six weeks.

BCC, SCC and MM are generally diagnosed in the same way. When the skin does not look normal to the doctor, he will take a biopsy (all or part of the growth)

and have the tissue examined under the microscope by a pathologist or a dermatologist.

The doctor considers a number of factors to determine the best treatment of skin cancer, such as the location of the cancer, its size and whether or not the cancer has spread beyond the skin. The doctor's main objective is to destroy the cancer completely while causing as little scarring as possible. Most skin cancers can be removed quickly and easily by surgery.

Irwin Army Community Hospital's Dermatology Clinic offers a self-referral Skin Cancer Screening Clinic to all military identification card holders. To schedule an appointment, call 239-DOCS.

For more information about skin damage or skin cancer, log on to www.aad.org or www.acs.org.

Command viewpoint

People real key to transformation

Editor's note: These comments were made by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld during an interview conducted by a staffer of the Pentagon Channel and reported in a March 17 article written by Donna Miles of the American Forces Press Service.

New weapons systems and state-of-the-art technology are important parts of the Defense Department's transformation, but the key to the process is the people involved. I really do believe it's the people. It's the attitude ... the culture. The Defense Department's transformation is working because its military and civilian leaders recognize the need and are giving the effort the top-level emphasis it requires. I hope that emphasis will serve almost like tossing a pebble in a pond, with a ripple effect that reaches throughout the department.

The terrorist attacks against the United States actually accelerated DoD's transformation plans rather than bringing them to an abrupt halt, as some people may have thought.

The Sept. 11 attacks provided a sense of urgency for us and an impetus, and I think in an interesting way, it enabled us to change more rapidly because we had the need and the need was clear.

Despite positive leadership and a clearly recognized threat, letting go of Cold War-era conventions and transforming the Defense Department so it's better adapted to 21st-century threats

and challenges won't happen overnight.

Part of that is because the threat constantly evolves; and part is because, no matter what people may say about accepting and adapting to change, it simply defies human nature. People get comfortable in their patterns and habits, and change intersects a degree of disruption and uncertainty that most try to avoid.

That problem is compounded in institutions, both in the private and government sector, and particularly in organizations as large as DoD.

In both examples, the trick is to get people to let go of their old practices so they can adapt to the current requirements.

For the Defense Department, that means abandoning a force structure that's organized, trained, equipped and conditioned to fight big armies, navies and air forces and adapting one suited to new threats and challenges.

The number of uncertainties increases as to where those challenges can come from and what their nature might be. That is a hard thing for people to adjust to.

Even so, I'm impressed by the way DoD's leaders are putting that resistance aside and embracing measures that are helping move the department forward.

They're demonstrating an understanding of 21st-century circumstances and enough self-confidence that they're willing to take risks and to alter the way things were being done.



Donald Rumsfeld

Opinions may be e-mailed to the editor at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or faxed to 239-2592. Opinions must reach the editor by close of business Mondays to appear in the following Friday's paper.

Grunt By Wayne Ulden



Letters to editor

Student seeks help

My name is Allison Brown. I go to Inter-Lakes Middle Tier in New Hampshire. My fifth grade class is starting to learn about the 50 states. Soon we are going to begin a project called "state in a box," and I chose your wonderful state for my project.

Please, if you are not too busy, send me postcards, an old license

plate, brochures or anything else that represents your beautiful state. If you have any special tourist attractions please let me know.

Send them to me in care of Mrs. Beinish at the school, 231 Laker Lane, Meridith, NH.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Allison Brown

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Disease affects 5.5M annually

By Jorge Gomez
Army News Service

FORT LEE, Va. — Human papillomavirus is one of the most common, yet least known, sexually transmitted diseases. HPV infects about 5.5 million people yearly and about 20 million Americans are infected, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Certain types of HPV cause cervical cancer, but public awareness of the virus, unlike AIDS awareness, is limited even though HPV is equally deadly.

Of the 100 HPV types that have been identified, 30 of them infect the genital area.

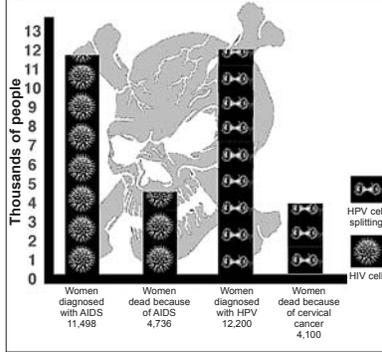
Most of the infections cause no symptoms and go away on their own, but HPV is a public health concern to the CDC because persistent infection can cause cervical cancer in women.

Cervical cancer screening using the Pap test and treatment of precancerous cervical abnormalities have resulted in a significant decrease in deaths in the United States.

For more info

For more information, visit the following Web sites:

- Centers for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov
- National Cancer Institute: www.cancer.gov
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases: www.niaid.nih.gov



However, the CDC reports that an estimated 12,200 women develop cervical cancer and 4,100 women die from it.

In 2003, the CDC also estimated that 11,498 women were diagnosed with AIDS and 4,736 of those died.

The number of women who are diagnosed and die from AIDS nearly equals those who develop cervical cancer and die.

Yet Americans are largely ignorant of HPV and few mediums seem interested in raising awareness.

For example, the Army News Service search engine generates 43 articles from its electronic archives with the entry "HIV," but fails to generate a single article with the entry "HPV."

The Walter Reed Army Medical

Center search engine generated more than 200 links with "HIV" but only 12 links with "HPV."

Educating people, and women especially, becomes critical when one realizes that HPV cannot be prevented by using a condom during sexual intercourse.

Transmission of HPV occurs through contact with infected genital area skin. HPV infection in women can occur on the cervix, vagina, vulva, inner thighs and perianal area.

For the male, infection can occur on the penis, urethra, scrotum, inner thighs and perianal area.

In June 2000, the National Institutes of Health produced a report titled, Scientific Evidence on Condom Effectiveness for Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention.

It reported favorably in prevent-

Prevention

To prevent genital HPV infection and cervical cancer, the CDC recommends the following:

- No genital contact with another individual.
- For those who choose to be sexually active, a long-term, monogamous relationship with an uninfected partner is the best strategy, but it is difficult to determine whether a partner is currently infected.
- Reducing the number of sexual partners and choosing a partner less likely to be infected.
- Regular cervical cancer screening for all sexually active women.

ing the transmission of HIV, but for HPV the panel concluded that there was no evidence that condom use reduced the risk of HPV infection.

The CDC concluded that "even consistent and correct use of condoms would not be expected to offer complete protection from HPV infection because infections also may occur on sites not covered or protected by a condom," according to the January 2004 Report to Congress: Prevention of Genital Human Papillomavirus Infection.

For women, the first indication of HPV comes from an abnormal Pap test that examines the cells in the cervix. An HPV DNA test is then used to determine what type of HPV the woman has contracted. Currently, there is no available HPV test for men.

Army boosts efforts to improve recruiting

By Donna Miles
AFPS

WASHINGTON — The Army is using a variety of programs and incentives to help attract more young men and women into its ranks, according to Curtis Gilroy, DoD's director of accession policy.

Working to recruit 80,000 new members by late September, the Army is putting more recruiters in the field and giving them better tools to do their job, Gilroy said. Service officials are also hoping to boost the number and size of enlistment bonuses and are planning to roll out new advertising efforts that focus on adults who influence young people's decisions regarding military service.

Recruiters are "very, very important" to the overall recruiting effort, Gilroy said. "A uniformed recruiter in the field not only signs up recruits, but provides a statement of the military to the community," he said.

"The recruiter is the single most powerful tool the military has in its recruiting effort," agreed Navy Capt. Chris Arendt, deputy director of the DoD accession policy office.

"What they bring is that personal touch, the personality to convey the honor and service of the military." Their effect, he said, "is powerfully strong."

While personal and in-home visits remain critical to the process, particularly among Hispanic prospects, military recruit-

ing is going increasingly high-tech. Laptop computers and cell phones have become critical to recruiters, who frequently work out of their cars rather than offices. And there's been surprising success in "cyber-recruiting" — each service's use of online chat rooms for would-be recruits to get information about the military.

"Each of the services has recognized that today's generation is a computer-savvy generation and does many things with the Internet," Arendt said. "Each service has reacted to that and is setting up cyber-recruiting efforts."

The Army, the leader among the services in this initiative, has a live chat room where recruiters can answer people's questions and guide them toward the information they need in their decision-making. Potential recruits can enter the chat room in a safe environment, using a pseudonym if they wish, to ask questions or even check information about the military they've received from recruiters or others, Arendt explained.

The Army is also taking steps to beef up the bonuses it offers new recruits. Bonuses are very important for a variety of reasons, Gilroy said. They entice people to join the military in the first place.

The Army's recruiting goal for fiscal 2005 is 80,000 troops — 3,000 higher than last year's requirement and 6,200 higher than the previous year's.

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Post/Blackmon
Spec. Jason Custer of Co. C, 1st Bn., 16th Inf., looks for a specific location at a mock site as directed by Spec. Amran Moore of HHC, 1st Bn., 34th Armor.

EIB continued from page 1

Soldiers through each station, explaining the tasks and timing the Soldiers.

During actual testing, candidates will receive a "go" or "no go" as they complete each task to standard by time. If they fail a task, they can retset. If a Soldier fails the same task twice, he is out. If he fails three separate tasks once, he is out.

"You're here to be perfect. Each station has to be perfect," Tulanowski said.

The pride of being perfect isn't the only reason Soldiers try for the EIB. Some say the training

will be beneficial for upcoming deployments.

"We're training and getting new techniques down. Half of this stuff... I've never done before. So this is good training for that," said Spec. John Luciano of Co. B, 1st Bn., 16th Inf. "This is good training for Iraq, especially for the new guys who haven't been over there yet. It's a kind of basic training."

The Soldiers will go through the actual EIB test next week.

Tulanowski said he hopes all 129 will pass, but he is expecting about an 80 percent success rate.



Post/Blackmon
Specs. Carlos Cervantes (left) and David Hicks of Co. B, 1st Bn., 16th Inf. practice setting up Claymores April 11 during EIB practice week. The Soldiers will test for their EIB next week.

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POST SERVICE DIRECTORY



125th FSB guards Baghdad

By Matthew Wester
100th MPAD



Report from
Iraqi Freedom

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – A Soldier uses binoculars to survey the heavy traffic on a Baghdad street while his fellow platoon member listens closely for instructions on the radio.

These troops assigned to the 125th Forward Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, aren't on a patrol. They are on guard duty, making sure the boundaries of Camp Taji are secure.

"I'm pulling guard duty and keeping a good watch," said Pvt. Noel Lewis, a warehouse clerk for Company A who was assigned to a guard tower near one of the exterior walls on post. "I'm making sure nothing bad is going to happen on my watch."

His partner in the tower, Pfc. Michael Root is an ammunition specialist in Co. A. He shares Lewis' commitment to keeping things under control during their shift.

"I'm keeping an eye on things inside the base and outside the base," he said. "We keep the people inside the post safe."

A few towers down, another 125th FSB Soldier, Pfc. Sandy Suiter, underscores the importance of a long, but vigilant guard shift.

"It is a very important duty," he said. "If no one checks the perimeter, there is no telling when or

where there is a breach in the compound."

Suiter is an automated logistical specialist for Company B. His specialty in the Army doesn't involve scanning the horizon with binoculars, giving situation reports on the radio or setting up and loading an M-249 machine gun. However, in this organization, everyone is a rifleman first.

This is true of most of the battalion's troops on guard duty, who leave behind support jobs and step up with Soldiering skills when they are assigned to guard Camp Taji.

"On a day-to-day basis, I'm in a warehouse working, and I can take a break," Lewis said. "Here, you can't take breaks like that because you never know what can happen. You have to stay alert."

"Normally, I'm issuing out ammo to other units," Root said.

On this day, Root knew he might have to use the ammunition to protect himself and his fellow Soldiers in the guard tower.

Sgt. John Harman of Co. B contrasted his normal duties as a generator mechanic with the tasks



100th MPAD/Wester

Pvt. Noel Lewis of Co. A, 125th FSB, sits in the guard tower while on duty at Camp Taji, Iraq.

involved in running the entry control point he was assigned to guard.

"On a normal day in the shop, I'd be turning wrenches, fixing generators and keeping the power up," he said. "Out here, I deal with security, check identification and deal with the locals."

Iraqi soldiers who help provide security at the checkpoint also man the checkpoints.

"(The Iraqis) are attentive," Harman said. "They do what they need to do."

Harman said working with the Iraqis enabled him to get a different perspective on Iraq.

"I'm seeing Iraq through their eyes," he said.

The Iraqi soldiers also are learning from their American counterparts.

"They're seeing how we run things," said Spc. Daniel G. Jackson, an air conditioning mechanic for Co. B. On this day, he was working with Harman and the Iraqis to staff the checkpoint.

"The Iraqis are getting a taste of an American military operation," he said.

Working with the Iraqis and his fellow Soldiers, Harman said he is confident they all were keeping the post secure.

"I'm making sure the right people are going to the right places," he said. "On my shift, no one is going to get through that isn't supposed to."

That standard of efficiency requires Soldiers to put their previous training to use, and the preparations for tasks like guarding a perimeter began when these Soldiers first entered the Army.

"It's all a bunch of basics and what people sign up for the Army to do," Jackson said.

"You have to be alert and always look professional," he said.

Alertness and professionalism are two things stressed to all Soldiers in Army basic training.

"It's just like the drill sergeants told me in basic," Lewis said. "Stay alert and stay alive."

"You just go back to all that training," Root said.

Root added that some of that training taught him to get used to working long hours, and the lengthy guard shifts can be challenging.

Those long shifts enable the Soldiers to accumulate a lot of experience that helps them protect the post even better.

"Every time I do this, I learn more things to be aware of," Root said.

Iraq justice: Soldier testifies on attack

By Kevin Bromley
100th MPAD

TAJI, Iraq – Capt. Brian D. Vogt, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, received an e-mail summons to appear in court in Iraq - but he wasn't the one in trouble.

Vogt was summoned to testify in an Iraqi court against an insurgent who had engaged in attacks against U.S. Forces Oct. 15, 2003.

Vogt, who commanded Company C, 1st Battalion, 13th Armored Regiment, at the time of that attack was on a night patrol in the village of Ulitfiya when a resounding boom filled the night air.

"We were the closest asset in the area, and I was asked to take my six-man patrol to investigate," Vogt said.

The explosion occurred near a grainery in an area that Vogt said he patrolled regularly and knew very well.

"Near the river bridge, I found a large hole in a barrier wall and a rocket fin section," he said.

As Vogt and his patrol began to analyze the area, he noticed a scuffle taking place in a nearby alley.

"I saw several local guys pushing another Iraqi man around ... then I noticed the rocket launcher lying on the ground," Vogt said.

At that point, he knew who was responsible for the rocket attack. The men of Ulitfiya village were beating the insurgent.

They were unhappy that the man used their neighborhood to stage an attack on the Americans, Vogt said.

"He was pretty bloodied and beat up. I thought the Iraqis did it ... but I later found out that his wounds were from inadequate protection from the rocket's backblast," Vogt said.

The insurgent was put in jail to await his trial in the Iraqi legal system.

In February 2005, Vogt received his summons while in

the United States.

"At first, I was asked to testify via VTC (video teleconference)," he said. "When I told them I was returning to Iraq, they said, 'Great ... you can address the court in person ... I told them I'd love to testify in person.'"

Vogt left his forward operating base and traveled to Camp Liberty to link up with staff members of the Judge Advocate General's Office. With legal counsel in tow, he proceeded to the Iraqi courthouse.

"The court was held in the old Baghdad Museum building," Vogt said. "The walls were lined with hardwood and a lot of Iraqi security forces."

"I was there for a long time and got to see several other cases and really view the workings of the Iraqi courts," he said. "It's an amazing process."

The Iraqi legal system is different than the U.S. courts. In Iraq, there is an investigative hearing to review evidence.

If the defendant is found innocent at the investigative hearing, he is released. If he is found guilty, he goes to jail. If the judge cannot decide, the case is scheduled for hearing.

"I answered many different questions while I was there," Vogt said. "The judge asked, 'Do you think he did it?' and I said, 'I think he was trying to kill Americans.'"

"He asked, 'Do you think he was trying to kill you?' I said, 'No, I don't think he was trying to kill me specifically,'" Vogt said.

The line of questioning continued until the judge was satisfied that all the evidence was presented. In the end, the insurgent was sentenced to 15 years at hard labor in an Iraqi prison facility.

"It was very fascinating to see and participate in this process," Vogt said. "It was great to see an Iraqi government entity working well ... It felt good to help put someone who was trying to kill Americans behind bars for a very long time," he said.



100th MPAD/Wester

Sgt. John Harman of Co. B, 125th FSB, checks in a truck at a traffic entry point while on guard duty at Camp Taji, Iraq.



100th MPAD/Wester

Pfc. Michael Root of Co. B, 125th FSB, pulls his guard duty shift in the guard tower at Camp Taji, Iraq.

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Post news in brief

FRG training scheduled

Family Readiness Group Leader Basic Training is scheduled from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. April 19 at the Soldier and Family Support Center.

The course presents information about the responsibilities of a FRG leader, effective ways of communicating with family members, the importance of distributing accurate information and more.

The training is primarily aimed at new FRG leaders, but anyone in the readiness group may attend.

For more information, call 239-9435.

Open season under way

The Thrift Saving Plan's last open season runs now through June 30.

Currently, open season is the only time during which investors may change the amounts of their ongoing investments, although they may change how those investments are allocated among the investment funds at any time.

Open season also is the only time an eligible person who is not currently investing may begin to do so.

Starting July 1, those restrictions will be lifted, although the policy will be continued that government contributions for newly hired employees don't begin until after a waiting period has passed.

For more information, call Human Resources Assistant Durlene Bryson at 239-0688.

Hospital staff offers classes

Irwin Army Community Hospital's Nutrition Care Division offers weight control classes, including family member weight control, a weight support group for family members and retirees and a Weight to Stay program for active duty servicemembers.

For information on these programs, call 239-7644.

Severe weather briefings offered

Jim Hill of the Directorate of Environment and Safety will give a severe weather briefing to units, directorates and family member groups interested in learning about tornado and lightning safety, what to do and not to do in case of severe weather and learning more about Kansas tornado and lightning statistics and general facts and myths.

To get more information or to schedule a class, call Hill at 239-0446.

Kitty Drive closed for repair

Kitty Drive on Custer Hill will be closed until about Aug. 1 while the road's surface is replaced and its shoulders and drainage is improved.

The closed area stretches from the intersection with Desert Storm to the intersection with Estes Road. Both intersections will remain open to traffic.

'Medics' plan heat injury class

The Preventive Medicine Service of U.S. Army Medical Activity at Fort Riley will offer a heat injury awareness and prevention briefing at Barlow Theater from 9 to 11 a.m. May 4.

Family members are welcome to attend.

Classes also are available to units on a first-come, first-serve basis on Wednesdays through May 25. Available times for the one-hour classes are 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For more information, call Sgt. Russell Nurse, Sgt. Scott Fowle or Staff Sgt. Jody Gonzales at 239-7323.

Fellow Soldiers bid farewell to friend

By Kevin M. Bromley
100th MPAD

MAHMUDIYAH, Iraq — The sound of taps and rifle volleys echoed in the cavernous building as Soldiers of Company A, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, and 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor, of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, bade farewell to Cpl. William Dean Richardson.

Richardson was serving with the 2nd Platoon of Co. A. when he died April 3 while conducting dismounted combat operations along the CiCi Bar Canal in the north Babil area of Iraq.

"His squad members will tell you that Dean saw and sensed the attack before it happened," said Lt. Col. Lee Quintas, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor, commander.

"I am convinced that the fire he provided saved the lives of his squad and saved the Soldiers he loved as brothers," Quintas said.

The volume of enemy fire reportedly caused Richardson and two other members of the squad to seek a covered firing position in the CiCi Bar Canal.

Sgt. Cory Scott, the squad leader, said he noticed the Soldiers struggling to stay afloat in the

canal. Scott used belts and a radio antenna to retrieve two of his teammates from the canal's water.

Before that, "his pounding of the enemy with his 203 and M-4 on that day helped to save the lives of all the guys he was out with," said Sgt. Howard Midgeley.

Richardson was remembered as a man who lived the way of the warrior.

"Dean was never a man of many words ... but these words he lived by: duty, honor, loyalty and professionalism," Quintas said.

Friends said Richardson will be sorely missed by the Soldiers of Task Force 2-70, and they remembered him for his humor and physical and mental toughness.

"We not only lost a great Soldier but an unforgettable friend," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Vallenavedo.

"Cpl. Richardson's actions helped save the lives of his squad," said Col. David Bishop, 3rd Brigade Combat Team commander. "He lived the Warrior Ethos and valiantly died in the service of his country."

Quintas vowed that Task Force 2-70 would carry on Richardson's fight. "We will move towards the sound of the guns, as we always have," Quintas said.

Cpl. William Dean Richardson



Richardson joined the Army Feb. 26, 2002. After completing basic training at Fort Benning, Ga., he attended airborne training.

Fort Riley was Richardson's first duty station. He was assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry. While at Fort Riley, he served as an automatic rifleman and dismounted team leader.

Richardson deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom in March 2003 and returned in February 2004. He redeployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom in March 2005, after attending the U.S. Army Sniper School.

Richardson's awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, two Army Achievement Medals, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Combat Infantry Badge and Parachutist Badge. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Good Conduct Medal.

Memorial continued from page 1

of guy Dean was ... if you had a big firecracker blow up in your hand on the Fourth of July, he'd give you a big Tupperware bowl full of ice," Lacey said.

"Dean was a loyal kind of guy who always had your back, whether you were in a bar fight or a firefight," he said.

Richardson's comrades wanted those in attendance to remember

their friend's life, not to dwell on his death.

"Celebrate his life," said Staff Sgt. Anthony Alvarez. "As long as you do that, he'll continue to live in each one of us."

"I'll never say he's gone, but that my brother is waiting at the top of the next hill for me," said Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Bundy.



Soldiers of Co. A, 1st Bn., 41st Inf. and 2nd Bn., 70th Armor, bid farewell to Cpl. William Dean Richardson April 8. Richardson was killed while conducting dismounted combat operations in the north Babil area of Iraq.

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Fort Riley Community Life

Community news briefly

Couples invited to Riley's dance

Riley's Conference Center will be jumping from 8 p.m. April 22 to 1 a.m. April 23 for military couples at least 18 years old who want to dance and party.

Riley's will provide light refreshments from 10 p.m. to midnight and there will be a cash bar available for revelers at least 21 years old.

Parties must show a military ID at the door and pay a \$5 cover charge.

For more information, call (785) 784-1000.

Senior named merit finalist

Junction City High School senior David Lachut, son of Scott and Nancy Lachut of Fort Riley, has qualified as a finalist in the 2005 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Lachut is among about 15,000 students in the nation to be considered for major corporate and college scholarships. Students are selected as national merit finalists based upon results of P/SAT and have demonstrated high potential for future academic accomplishment.

At JCHS, Lachut has been active in National Honor Society, German Club, boy's soccer, Scholar's Bowl, forensics and debate.

Library features monkey tales

Fort Riley's Post Library staff invites children to story-times at 1:30 p.m. every Saturday. Children can hear a story and make a craft to take home. A light snack will also be served. All children are welcome; however, parents must accompany children under the age of 10.

April's storytimes will feature stories about monkeys and the featured author is H.A. Rey, author of the "Curious George" series. On April 16, children will hear the tale of a peddler who meets a mischievous band of monkeys in the folk tale "Caps For Sale."

Two children discover a mysterious game that turns their quiet house into a dangerous jungle in "Jumanji" on April 24.

"Don't Wake Up Mama!" is the story on April 30. Five little monkeys try to surprise their mother by baking a birthday cake, but the firemen have to come when the monkeys burn the cake.

The library is in Building 5306 on Custer Hill.

For more information, call Victoria Martin at 239-5305.

Society hosts tour of homes

The Historical and Archaeological Society of Fort Riley will sponsor the annual Spring Tour of Homes from 2 to 6 p.m. April 24. The tour will begin at St. Mary's Chapel and will tour many homes on Main Post.

Cost for the tour is \$5. The society asks that no children be taken on the tour.

Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

'Families First' improves moves

By Doug Sample
AFPS

WASHINGTON — Full replacement value for lost or damaged items is among several changes taking effect in October as part of a new program called "Families First." The program aims to improve the moving

process for military families.

"We're going to have a lot of happier campers, because they are not going to be losing any money out of their pockets like they did before," said Cullen Hutchinson of the passenger and personal property office at the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command in Alexandria, Va.

Hutchinson said that, under the current claims process, servicemembers only receive a depreciated value for property that is lost or damaged. For example, a \$200 television that is lost or damaged might only be valued at \$100 after depreciation, he said.

With Families First, he said, "the carrier will either replace the television with a similar one or

reimburse the servicemember the full cost of a new one."

Another benefit of Families First is that servicemembers will now deal directly with the carrier to arrange direct delivery of household goods, thus alleviating the need for temporary storage, he said.

"What makes this even better for the servicemembers is that

whenver you have temporary storage, the more handling of your household goods, the more susceptible it is for loss or damage," he said. Hutchinson added that direct delivery would also save the services money now spent for temporary storage.

In Families First, servicemem-

See Moves, Page 12

Curtain call



Randy Dykstra (left) goes over some stage blocking with members of his cast at a recent rehearsal for "Over the River and Through the Woods." Carolyn Zumbrohn (center) plays Emma Cristiano and Tammi Love plays Aida Gianelli, two Italian grandmothers intent on keeping their only grandson from moving away from their home in Hoboken, N.J.

Post/Heronemus

Military spouse directs stage comedy

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

The husband of a specialist assigned to the 331st Signal Company at Fort Riley makes his debut as a director for the Junction City Little Theatre this month. Randy Dykstra's efforts walk out on the local little theater group's stage with six local actors playing members of an Italian family living in Hoboken, N.J.

"Over the River and Through the Woods," a comedy by Joe DiPietro, opens at 8 p.m. April 21 and runs through a matinee performance April 24 at the little theater on 18th Street in Junction City.

Dykstra brings considerable experience to his director's job. He earned a degree in theater arts from Northern Michigan University on the border of

Lake Superior in 1986.

After working at odd jobs, "doing everything and anything to make money after college," he said, Dykstra got back into theater with a little theater

group in Iron Mountain, Mich.

That's where he met his future wife. They were in a play called "Sylvia" in which his future wife played the neighbor lady.

"We just seemed to hit it off, and I thought she was a creative person, so I sought her out when I went to direct another

See Dykstra, Page 12



Military spouse and play director Randy Dykstra reacts to dialogue and movement of the show's cast during rehearsal for "Over the River and Through the Woods."

Post/Heronemus



Project benefits absent Soldiers

Operation Troop Box grows in size

By Aaron J. Orr
82nd Med. Co. (AA)

When Mark Donley began sending care packages and basic hygiene items to his son, Spc. Scott Donley of the 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance), in Iraq in 2003, he didn't expect he would soon be sending 3,000 packages annually to other troops as well.

"My wife and I started buying stuff and sending it over [to Scott]," Donley said. "I never imagined it would grow as big as it did. It started when we started taking care of 82nd Med. Then we started taking names from other local people in Florida."

Soon after he began receiving packages in the mail from his parents, Spc. Donley realized this was becoming a big deal.

"I'm glad for everybody who can be touched by this but because of the people my parents are I'm not surprised it's grown to the magnitude it has," Donley said. "My parents have two children, but they don't feel like they have two children. They feel like they have thousands."

Operation Troop Box supports four units of 100 to 150 troops as well as many individual Soldiers.

"Right now I have approximately 700 [Soldiers]," Donley said. "You guys are serving the country and I feel if I quit we'd be letting you guys down."

Operation Troop Box grew so rapidly that Donley decided to incorporate in May 2004.

"We incorporated because of the number of Soldiers we were supporting."

Donley explained, "and handling other people's money."

Though Operation Troop Box is a charitable organization and is not run for profit, it is not registered as a 501-C (tax exempt) organization with the government.

See Troop Box, Page 14

Spouses bare real relationship temptations

Workshop offers personal strategies for remaining faithful during absences

Editor's note: This is the third article in a series about a workshop that offered open discussion about personal problems and issues relating to Soldier deployment to Iraq and the resulting single-parenting responsibilities spouses face at home.

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

It's an issue no one discusses. But it's an issue that affects mar-

riages and relationships — especially when one party is deployed.

"When I was planning this ... I said I think there really needs to be something on the whole topic of sex and the fact that when the husband's deployed, you're going without it for a long time. And more than one person said to me, 'Nobody talks about that,'" said THRIVE workshop coordinator Renee Teetsel.

Teetsel and military spouses Kelly Bowyer and Valerie Hall



shared their thoughts and feelings on relationships as they deal with their husbands' deployments during the Take Hold of Reality and Invest for Victory in the End workshop conducted at Riley's

Conference Center March 31.

"We all know that to cheat on your husband is wrong ... but to really be faithful starts way before that," Teetsel said. "I don't think many women ever really plan to be unfaithful ... I think there are women - and I was one of them - who thought 'that only happens to other people. I'm not vulnerable to that.' That wasn't true. I was vulnerable, and I think every woman is vulnerable. And if you think that you're not, you're

already in some danger," Teetsel said.

Temptation comes in abundance and a variety of forms. In fact, we're surrounded by temptation every day, Hall said.

"I think it's so important in today's society, where there's such a prevalence of sexual material that you are bombarded with every single day ... I think we've gotten led astray in our society

See THRIVE, Page 13



Community news briefly

School to host spring carnival

The Fort Riley Elementary Spring Carnival will run from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. April 30. The carnival will include food, games and outdoor exhibits. Tickets are required for all food and games. Tickets will be on sale at the school April 25-29 at a cost of five for \$1. Tickets will be four for \$1 on the day of the carnival.

Girls Scouts offer childcare

Girl Scout Troop 2034 is offering free childcare for spouses of deployed Soldiers from 4 to 7 p.m. April 16 at the Junction City Parks and Recreation's Twelfth Street Community Center. Spaces are limited. To register, call (800) 432-0286, extension 44.

Post-wide yard sale April 30

Fort Riley will host a post-wide yard sale open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 30. People without a government identification card must show a valid vehicle registration, proof of current auto insurance and a valid driver's license to gain entry at Fort Riley's access points.

Teen Center activities slated

April 15 - 8 to 10 p.m., Teen Center party
April 16 - Kansas City Royals vs. Detroit
April 22 - 8 to 10:30 p.m., middle school dance
 For more information, call the Teen Center at 239-9222.

Moves continued from page 11

bers will file settlement claims directly with the carrier, using a Web-based claim filing process.

"There will not be a middle man; the servicemember will be able to address the carrier directly on the issue they have," he explained. "And the carrier will have an incentive to take care of that servicemember in a positive way."

Servicemembers will be encouraged to complete a Web-based customer satisfaction survey that measures the performance of carriers, Hutchinson said, and that survey will become

part of that carrier's record. "If the carrier's performance is poor, then the amount of business he's going to get from the government is going to fall off or stop completely," he explained. "So there is an incentive there. It's no longer a competition on cost, but it's a competition now with cost and performance."

He said the survey gives servicemembers a chance to influence decisions on whether a carrier continues to do business with the Defense Department.

"And that decision is going to be based on the performance of

that carrier," he said.

The result, he said, will be "more quality carriers, which will translate into quality service for our servicemembers. And higher quality carriers will ultimately mean higher quality moves."

Hutchinson said efforts like Families First should help improve the quality of service in the military moving industry that transports the household goods of more than 500,000 servicemembers and their families each year.

He said problems in the moving industry have plagued the services for years, and that efforts to

improve the moving process have been ongoing since 1994, starting with reengineering of the household goods process.

The perceptions were that DoD was experiencing a very high loss and damage rate," he said. "When we looked at the numbers, it was significantly higher than some of the corporate accounts."

In addition, he said, claim rates also were higher for military moves. While average military claims ranged around \$500, he said many corporate claims were in the range of \$100.

In the end, he said, DoD expects to see a "considerable decrease in loss and damage claims. The reason for that is that the carrier is assuming a higher liability for claims, so it's in their best interest to protect the goods better so they are not subject to this loss."

Hutchinson said Families First also should ease some of the stress involved with moving.

"What we're trying to do is reduce that stress for our servicemembers so they can concentrate on more important things and not worry about 'my stuff,'" he said.

Dykstra continued from page 11

show. One thing led to another and ...," Dykstra said about their blossoming relationship.

Dykstra traveled south to Kansas after his newfound love decided she wanted a job that would let her take care of her family, she has two boys, and the Army seemed a good way to accomplish that, he said.

"She asked me if I wanted to come along. I thought it would be a good way to get my teaching certificate and still be with her, so we decided to get marriage," Dykstra explained.

His wife's assignment brought Dykstra to Fort Riley in May 2002 and it wasn't long before he found his way to the Junction City Little Theatre, where he tried out for a part in another comedy, "Fools."

"To my surprise, the director John Triplett liked me and asked if I wanted to play the lead," Dykstra said. Since then he has been a visible presence for the local theater group, playing the male lead opposite his wife in "1984," playing a part in "Pride and Prejudice" in the spring of 2003 and followed by another role in "The Importance of Being Earnest" in the fall of 2003.

He's also been cast in "The Dining Room" and other Junction City Little Theatre productions and has been a member of the board of directors for about a year.

Facing his Junction City debut as a director, Dykstra admitted he



Director Randy Dykstra (on stage) listens to a suggestion from actor Marcus Field while cast members Tammi Love (left) and Carolyn Zumbrunn wait for rehearsal to begin.

wasn't "particularly fond of 'Over the River and Through the Woods. I'd seen the play in Abilene, but I wasn't particularly fond of it. There are other plays I've read that I would have loved to have directed, but once I started doing it and once I saw the cohesiveness of the cast and everything has come along wonderfully" his feelings changed. "This has been a memorable, wonderful experience," he said before reading his cast for that evening's rehearsal.

The trick about being a director, Dykstra said, is making sure

the actors are on stage as quickly as you can get them on, meaning they do their work on the stage, so as a director he doesn't want them sitting in a chair learning their lines before they actually get on the stage.

The most important thing for a director is to get the actors on stage and moving with their lines, because lines and movement go together. You ... get them on stage working their lines so they always know "with this line I move three steps to the left," he said.

A director must also have a cre-

ative sense, he said. "In other words, not just look at a script that has some italicized words that say 'move left.' The creative part about being a director is maybe you don't want them to move left on that line. Maybe you want them to move left on the line earlier, maybe a line later. Maybe you don't want them to move left. Maybe you want them to do something else while they're moving left," he explained.

For example, "In one scene, I want a guy to walk around and stumble over a chair, but that's not in the script," Dykstra said.

The director's creativity and imagination colors the play, he continued. "If everybody just does the simple stage directions, it's a very bland play."

Dykstra said this first foray into directing a local production has been pleasurable for him because the cast is so cohesive. They're cohesive, he said, because "they're a very creative bunch. They all have actual stage experience. Some have college theater experience. So they bring a whole bunch of things to the stage."

Another plus, Dykstra likes, is that the cast members can "take my direction and run with it. I only give a direction that is skeletal."

Dykstra said he blocked out the play action at home in about 10 hours, then transferred that to the stage with the actors in about

three days.

His stage blocking - how characters move across the stage - changes as needed, he admitted. "A director also has to be flexible. One time I had the whole cast grouped up and that didn't work. I had to spread them out," he said.

Directing the play has taken a lot of Dykstra's evenings, but he feels the payoff for all that effort will come.

"I paint moving pictures. When I can see the moving picture work with all the creative little nuances and the audience laughs because what I thought was funny transferred to the audience and they picked up on it, that's the reward," he said.

Besides his involvement with the Junction City Little Theatre Group, Dykstra is working toward a teaching certificate. "I'd love to be able to teach theater and drama in high school. Theater teaches experiences to those involved in it, things that go beyond a four-walled classroom," he said, admitting that he would like to help impart some of those experiences through school productions, including works by Shakespeare and Chekhov.

But, for the Junction City Little Theatre's next season, "it looks like I will be directing 'Midsummer's Night Dream.' Of all the Shakespeare plays I've read, I've never touched it," he said, anticipating another pleasurable challenge.

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Community news briefly

Spouses slate meeting, shower

The Enlisted Spouses' Club will conduct its monthly membership meeting at 6:30 p.m. April 27 in the Armed Services YMCA, 111 E. 16th St. in Junction City. The meeting will be followed by a baby shower for the American Red Cross, with collected baby items donated to the Mother's Outreach Program at Irwin Army Community Hospital.

For more information about the event and about the club, contact ESC President Sherri Miller by e-mail at escpresident@hotmail.com.

Craft center classes posted

- April 16 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 3-D buildings in glass
 - April 17 - 1 to 4:30 p.m., scrapbooking get-together
 - April 18 - 7 p.m., crochet, knitting and cross-stitch
 - April 18 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., wood safety orientation
 - April 19 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., introduction to stained glass
 - April 18 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., intermediate and advanced stained glass
 - April 19 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., wood class (flower boxes)
 - April 19 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., ceramic mold pouring
- For more information, call the Arts and Crafts Center at 239-9205.

BOSS events announced

- April 15 - Rusty Club Classic Golf Tournament
 - April 22 - Six Flags at Arlington, Texas, trip
 - April 29 - Cinco de Mayo trip to Fort Sam Houston, Texas
- For more information, call 239-8147.

THRIVE continued from page 11

that sex is what a marriage relationship is about," Hall said.

You have to be careful about what you allow your thoughts to dwell on, Teetsel said.

"You may not be able to control the thought that initially comes to your mind, kind of like an airplane. It may be flying overhead, but you don't have to give it permission to land," she said.

"Because what we think majorly impacts how we behave.

"It is ineffective just to tell yourself, 'I should not be thinking of that ... you have to replace one thought with another thought ... turn it around,'" Teetsel suggested.

"Think of your husband ... Make an intentional choice and not just tell yourself, 'don't go there,'" she said.

If you're having inappropriate thoughts or feeling vulnerable, find a close, trusted friend to confide in, Hall said. Don't stay at home and dwell on those thoughts.

"Verbalize (how you're feeling), because somehow that takes all the power out of what it is that you're thinking," Hall said.

Also, realize when your thoughts are beginning to become inappropriate actions, Teetsel cautioned.

"You have to be honest with

yourself. You know when you're flirting ... and you also know when you're being subtly hit on. Don't kid yourself that that's not happening, because it is," Teetsel said.

Flirting leads to gossip, which can lead to problems, Hall said.

"We do live in a small society ... and people are going to talk. So if you're acting in a way that's not becoming to you or to your spouse, people are going to start talking about that.

"Gossip is a bad thing ... but perception is more real than reality in most cases. If people think that's who you are, then that's who you are. Your reputation is important," Hall said.

It's important to realize that women are going to have unmet needs, including physical touch, companionship and feeling desired, Bowyer said.

"It's just natural," she said.

"Realize that it is natural for you to feel like this, but it's not natural to dwell on it or to pursue it ... you can meet those needs in a responsible, realistic way and still not be unfaithful."

Identify what you're truly missing, whether it's conversation, romance, physical touch, etc. and then find legitimate ways to meet those needs in a responsible

manner, Teetsel and Bowyer suggested.

"If you're lacking touch, go get a massage from a licensed massage therapist. If you're lacking male conversation and companionship, talk to your brother, your father, friends, your father-in-law," Bowyer said.

Women have a need for romance, Bowyer said. And with husbands being away at war, it can be such a romantic time.

"Take advantage of that. Yes, it's a sad thing, but it's also one of the most romantic lives you can lead," she said.

"Write love letters ... I write Rick letters and tell him, 'I really admired you when' and I list off very specific details about when I was just overwhelmed with how much I admired and loved him. And nothing is more of a turn on to me and to him than to recount those times and to recount those times when he was tender, kind."

Dwell on what's positive about your husband and remember the things that you enjoyed about your husband, Teetsel said.

"Just make yourself remember, so that when he comes back, you'll be greeting somebody you like because you've been keeping in your mind the good things," she said.



Photo by Leslee Rivard

Breakfast starts day

Elsie Goodman pours syrup on pancakes for her son, Dominic, at a free breakfast on post April 9 before they, Goodman's daughter, Jocelyn, and other families were taken to Junction City to take part in a community fair that was one of this month's activities scheduled to celebrate Month of the Military Child and child abuse awareness. Sixty people ate the free breakfast served by members of the post's Child and Youth Services staff and provided by local food suppliers through the commissary. Another planned activity will be the Exceptional Family Member Program and the New Parent Support Program Spring Fling from 10 a.m. to noon April 30 at the Soldier and Family Support Center, Building 7264. Participants will make May Day baskets, design and decorate May Poles and fly kites. Participating families must be enrolled in the programs and should RSVP to 239-9435 by April 24 to indicate they will attend.

Bubble duty

Erica Steinfert (right), a graduate student from Kansas State University, distracts 3-year-old Bradley Draper while Renate Harvey of the Geary County Infant/Toddler Services checks his hearing. Steinfert and Harvey were part of a team offering free hearing screenings at the Child Development Center recently as part of the post's Month of the Military Child celebration.



Photo by Vicki Ohmucht

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Community news briefly

Stay-home kids offered tips

School Age Services is offering "Home Alone" training to children 10 and older. The training focuses on skills children need to remain safe if they are home alone.

Classes are scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. April 18, May 13, June 16 and July 14 in Building 6620. The April and May dates coincide with days students are out of school in Geary County Unified School District 475.

Cost for the class is free to children enrolled with Child Youth Services and \$10 for children not enrolled. Parents may attend. For more information, call 239-5077 or 239-9478.

Youth services events posted

April is the Month of the Military Child, and the following events are planned:

April 16 - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., free child care for deployed Soldier's kids
For more information, call 239-9173

Rally Point offers planned

April 15 - 5 to 8 p.m., Family Night with family friendly movie, music and buffet

April 16 - 11 p.m. to 4 a.m., Late Night with DJ Monroe

April 20 - 5 to 9 p.m., Wednesday Wing Night

April 21 - 5 to 9 p.m., 95-cent cheeseburgers

April 22 - 5 to 8 p.m., Family Night with family friendly movie, music and buffet

For more information, call 784-5434

Riley's to host moms' lunch

Riley's Conference Center will host a Mother's Day lunch from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. May 8. The menu will include roast pork tenderloin, seasoned fried chicken, whipped mashed potatoes with gravy, seasoned carrots, hot cherry cobbler, house salad, hot rolls and tea, coffee and water.

The price for adults 12 and older is \$13.95 per person. Children 4 to 12 eat for \$10.50. Reservations are recommended.

For more information or to make a reservation, call Riley's Conference Center at (785) 784-1000.

Marriage talks available

The Morris Hill Gospel Congregation sponsors marriage seminars on the first and third Mondays of each month. For more information, call Morris Hill Chapel at 239-4814.

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Troop Box continued from page 11

"The federal government wanted \$500 to make it a 501-C, and Soldiers can use \$500 a hell of a lot better than the federal government," Donley said.

Despite being incorporated, Operation Troop Box is run almost entirely by Donley, it's president.

Garage used to store donations

"I have two guys that are in their 80s that come over and help package," said Donley, whose two-car garage has not seen a car since the inception of Operation Troop Box.

Donley explained, "I have two eight-foot tables going across the front of my garage and an eight-foot table going down both sides, like a 'U'."

In addition to the garage-cum-packaging center, Donley rents two 13-foot by 13-foot storage units near their Florida home to store the packages until it is time to ship them.

When it comes time to ship, they load a friend's 30-foot trailer and haul the packages to the post office.

All that shipping does not come cheap. The last shipment, which was two trailers full, cost more than \$3,500 to ship.

In 2004, Operation Troop Box spent a little more than \$21,000 on shipping.

"We priority ship [everything] so our guys and gals will get it within 10 to 14 days," Donley said.

Despite being diagnosed with a chronic, slow-progressing form of Leukemia in November 2001, Donley faithfully sets up a table on weekends outside various Wal-Marts throughout Florida.

Last summer, he did a 16-week tour of Wal-Marts throughout central Florida with a Christian radio station. He spent at least four hours in the hot Florida sun outside each Wal-Mart selling yellow ribbon magnets for cars and accepting donations and gifts to send to troops.

Even though he has leukemia, Donley has no intention of shutting down Operation Troop Box anytime soon.

"We're gonna do it as long as we can. As long as people are donating stuff and money for shipping," he said.

The majority of the money comes from donations from local Rotary International chapters, Veterans of Foreign Wars posts, churches and businesses.

Revenue also comes from magnets he sells on his Web site, www.operationtroopbox.com and at local VFWs.

A recent \$3,300 donation from a business was used "to buy stuff for 100-plus Marines in Afghanistan," Donley said.

'Everyone' gets involved

School children write letters and bring in donations. A Florida Girl Scout Troop donated cookies.

"I try to get everyone involved," Donley said.

Some product donations come in the mail while Donley drives many miles a year to pick up others.

"It's nothing for me to go 75 miles one way to pick stuff up," said Donley. The van Donley bought new last year has 36,000 miles on it, many due to Operation Troop Box.

Soldiers aren't the only ones to directly benefit from Operation Troop

Box. This past Christmas the organization sent gifts to 300 families of servicemembers deployed overseas.

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Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Friday, April 15, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Page 15

Sports news in brief

Programs offer lots of softball

The Fort Riley Sports Office is coordinating a wide range of softball play this year. Play will be open to Soldiers, women, government contract employees, federal service employees and family members in a variety of leagues. Leagues being formed include one for unit competition at company, battery and troop level; men's and women's competition at battalion level; a co-ed team league and a community life team league.

Military unit league play is free to teams. Each team in the co-ed league must pay a \$120 fee and each team in the Community Life League must pay an \$85 fee.

Teams must submit letters of intent to play. Forms are available at the Fort Riley Sports Office at King Field House.

Entry deadline to sign up a team up is close of business April 27. League play is scheduled to begin around May 10.

The first tournament of the year is the Spring Fling Tournament scheduled for May 7-8. It is open to company level teams, women's battalion teams and community life teams.

For more information, call Barry Sunstrom at 239-3945.

Army lawyers plan tourney

The 12th annual Law Day Golf Tournament sponsored by the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at Fort Riley will be May 4 at Custer Hill Golf Course.

The tournament is part of the Fort Riley community's Law Day celebration and is open to local and state law enforcement officials, civic and business leaders, the post community and the surrounding legal community.

For more information, call Capt. Bill Yanek at (785) 239-3117.

Community walk planned

A community "Walk This Way" three-mile walk is scheduled for 9 a.m. May 7 as a way for participants to kick off spring physical activity and walk their way to fitness and mental well being while seeing the beautiful sights of Fort Riley.

Participants will receive a free "Support Our Troops" bracelet after the walk.

The walk will begin at the locomotive at Wymann Park, corner of Huebner Road and Dickman Avenue, across from the shoppette.

For more information, call Jan Clark at 239-7250 or Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Stuart at 239-7738.

Center staff sets up class

The Outdoor Recreation Center staff is offering an orienteering class from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 30 at the Fort Riley Land Navigation Course off Estes Road. Cost is \$10.

The goal of orienteering is to find the fastest route between a series of marked features in the terrain using a Global Positioning System.

To register for the class or for more information, visit the rec center at 9011 Rifle Range Road or call 239-2363 by April 28.

Soccer champs, others rebuild

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

The players of Medical Department Activity are looking to defend their 2004 tournament championship titles in battalion league soccer this season.

But, with very few returning players, MEDDAC team member John Everett doesn't know if his

team can pull off another great season. "We lost pretty much everyone," Everett said.

MEDDAC will be playing without several of its stars from last season, including former coach Craig Noda. Noda, a soccer player for 24 years, had played on the Jr. Olympic team and the All-Army team.

"He went to Iraq and then had

some health issues; he's not playing, as far as I know," Everett said.

MEDDAC lost just two games last year, both against teams not competing this season.

The team defeated 10th ASOS and 924th Military Police Battalion teams in its match-ups. ASOS and the MPs split their games.

ASOS will be bringing a fairly new team to the field, said Coach

Mars Hinton. While they haven't had much of a chance to practice, Hinton said he feels their strength is in speed and numbers.

"We'll probably be one of the quicker teams out there. We've got a lot of young guys," Hinton said.

"We'll have lot of substitutes, which should make us pretty fresh throughout the game," he said. The MPs will also start fresh

this year in terms of players. Both the 977th MP Co. and the 300th MP Co. are home to play this season and will provide several new faces to the team.

"It's just going to be about trying hard and going out there and having fun. We're just going there to run around and kick the ball and kick each other in the shins," said Coach Capt. Mike Broumard.

Trooper tennis

School team plays 'intro' matches

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

The 33-member Fort Riley Middle School tennis team played in season introductory matches April 7 against Junction City Middle School players at Fifth Street Park in Junction City.

Bad weather postponed April 5 matches against Salina South. Those matches were rescheduled for April 22.

Barbara Commons was the sole Fort Riley winner in singles matches, defeating her opponent 6-3.

Three Trooper teams won their doubles matches: Uniquia Griser and Julia Nwoga defeated opponents 6-3; Jamie Zvirgzdins and Lauren Bradley defeated their opponents 6-2; and Cheyenne Schlaack and Jasmine Smiley won their matches 6-5 after winning 7-5 in a tie-breaker.

Results from the April 14 match at Washburn Rural were unavailable at press time. The team will play their next two matches April 25 and 28 at Washburn Rural before returning home for the Junction City Middle School Invitational April 29.



Post/Blackmon

Barbara Commons twists as she attempts a low forehand return for her match April 7. She and other Fort Riley Middle School Troopers on the tennis team played some introductory matches against other players that day.

Lauren Bradley uses a two-handed grip on her racket as she swings to hit a volley in play on the courts at Fifth Street Park in Junction City April 7.

Post/Blackmon



Post/Blackmon

Krista Taylor stretches to reach a high volley in her match for the Troopers April 7.

Army shows power on mats

Wrestlers win 38 matches, lose only four

By Tim Higgs

Army News Service

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. - All-Army wrestlers won 38 of 42 individual matches and captured the Greco-Roman and freestyle team titles in the 2005 Armed Forces Wrestling Championships March 31 and April 1 at the U.S. Olympic Training Center.

The Soldiers won 10 gold and four silver medals.

"I would say that's pretty close to dominating, but we've still got a lot of work to do," said All-Army Coach Shon Lewis.

Dremiel Byers led the way for the Army by winning gold in both disciplines of the 120-kilogram (264.5-pound) weight class. Byers, the 2002 Greco-Roman heavyweight world champion also wrestled freestyle for the first time since 1997 and won six matches with a cumulative score of 45-0.

"He's the anchor of our team, and he takes on that role with great pride and great dignity," Lewis said.

In Greco-Roman competition, Byers and fellow Army wrestlers Neil Rodak, Glenn Garrison and Jess Hargrave won their respective weight classes. Duaine Martin, Keith Sieracki and Albert Sankey won silver medals.

Air Force's Jacob Hey and Phil Johnston and Marine Jacob Clark won Greco gold medals.

In freestyle, Eric Albarraicin, Martin, Oscar Wood, James Henderson of Fort Bragg, N.C., Sankey and Byers won their divisions. Lantz Schwabenbauer of Fort Drum, N.Y., took a silver medal.

With the exceptions of Henderson, Schwabenbauer and Rodak, a former member of the All-Navy team stationed at Salt Lake City, all of the Army medal winners are stationed at Fort Carson. The

See Wrestlers, Page 16

Hummingbirds begin their return to Kansas

'Rain bird' gets nickname because it flies in rain - must eat despite weather



Carla Hurlbert

By Carla Hurlbert
DES Conservation Office

The month of April is associated with spring rains but it is the time of year when the hummingbirds start to return to Kansas.

Hummingbirds belong to the family Trochilidae. The ruby-throated hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) is the only specie found here on Fort Riley.

Native Americans regard the hum-

On the Wildside: News About Nature

mingbird as "rain bird" because they fly in the rain.

Hummingbird metabolism rates are so high the birds must feed often, rain or shine.

Other Native Americans call hummingbirds "the sunbeam bird," probably because of how gorgets (throat) respond to sunlight.

The male hummingbird can be

identified by its emerald green back, ruby red gorget, sometimes with what appears to be a light ring around the neck.

The sides and flanks are a dirty gray with no white tips on the tail feathers. The tail is a deep "V" shape.

The male has a longer tail and a shorter bill than the female.

The female hummingbird has the

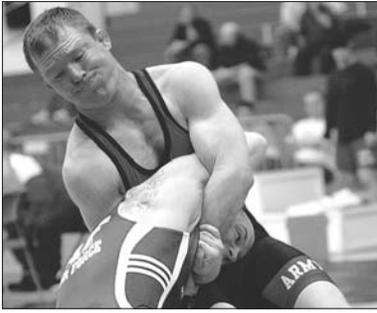
emerald green back with no gorget and white tips on the ronder tail, with whitish breast and throat.

Immature hummingbirds look like the female except the male will have some ruby red spots on the throat.

The hummingbird's rapid wingbeat enables it to move forward, backward, upward, and downward as it hovers in a vertical position and maneuvers from flower to flower to feed on nec-

See Wildside, Page 16





The Army's Oscar Wood (top), a 2004 Olympian, locks down on Air Force wrestler Johnny Gunn in the 66-kilogram (145.5-pound) freestyle division of the 2005 Armed Forces Wrestling Championships at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. Wood won the match, 7-0, 2-0.

USACFSC Public Affairs/Hipps

Wrestlers continued from page 15

Marines' Clark, a seven-time Armed Forces champion, won the only freestyle gold medal that eluded the Soldiers by defeating Schwabenbauer 6-0, 1-0.

In round-robin team competition, the All-Army Greco-Roman squad defeated Navy, 22-0; Air Force, 21-7; and the Marine Corps, 19-7. In freestyle, Army prevailed 21-4 against Air Force; 26-3 against Navy; and 20-5 against the Marines.

The Marine Corps finished second in Greco-Roman team competition, followed by Air Force and Navy. In freestyle, Air Force finished second, followed by the Marines and Navy.

Gold medalists in the Armed Forces Championships qualified to represent the United States in the 2005 Conseil du Sport Militaire Wrestling Championships Aug. 24 through 27 in Lithuania.

The All-Army team's near-term sights, however, are set on

the 2005 U.S. National Wrestling Championships April 29 and 30 at Las Vegas.

"We go into this tournament as a steppingstone to get to where we're trying to go, which is the World Championships [Sept. 26 to 28 at Budapest, Hungary]," Lewis said.

All-Air Force Coach Rich Estrella, one of four Greco-Roman coaches for Team USA's World Championships squad, said he's impressed with Lewis' accomplishments since taking the helm of the All-Army team in 2001.

"For them, it's never a matter of rebuilding; all they do is reload," Estrella said. "They've got a very solid team and a very deep program."

Tim Hipps writes for U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center Public Affairs.



The Army's Eric Albarracin (right) wrestles for a gold medal in the 55-kilogram (121-pound) freestyle division of the 2005 Armed Forces Wrestling Championships at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

USACFSC Public Affairs/Hipps

Wildside continued from page 15

Hummingbirds can do this because of their strong wing muscles, which are proportionately larger than those of any other bird species.

The rapid movement of hummingbird wings makes a low, buzzing sound, which contributes to the bird's name.

A hummingbird nest is about the size of half a walnut shell. They use spider webbing, cottonwood seed tufts, pieces of dried grass, and discarded bird feathers to build their nest.

Tuft is used mostly for the nest bottom and inner walls. They will use colored material that matches the leaves of the tree to aid in camouflaging the nest.

They work the chips of paint, bark, and bits of grass or lichens into the nest sides, stuccoing just enough of them to break up its outline. Their pick of color is flawless.

During incubation the nest will be oblong shaped, matching the form of the hen's body.

Incubation temperature is between 95 degrees Fahrenheit

and 97 degrees Fahrenheit. The hen will raise or lower her body in the nest to regulate incubation temperature. The hen will turn her egg about every two hours with her beak. She'll rotate her position in the nest from 120 degrees to 180 degrees; this will reshape her nest.

On cool days, she will use her beak to mold the top edges inward. On warm days, she will open the top to allow for ventilation.

The spider webbing allows the nest to stretch or compress. Growing chicks cause the nest to stretch; this keeps them consistently snug.

It seems Mother Nature intended hummingbirds to lay two eggs. Hummingbird nests are built for the hatching of two eggs. Once the chicks push up past the top edge, they will reach thermoregulation.

Hummingbirds will use the same nesting spot year after year.

Hummingbirds only have one specialized predator that attacks within hummingbird territory, the tiny hawk (Accipiter superciliosus

fontanieri), of the Costa Rican rain forest.

In North America it doesn't face intentional hunters but can be attacked by opportunists. The best snagging hunters are orioles, flycatchers, and small hawks and falcons. Also, leopard frogs, praying mantises, roadrunners, snakes, lizards, spider webs, wasps, and sea gulls are many other opportunist hunters of hummingbirds.

Hummingbirds share an interesting relationship with mites. This mite feeds and reproduces in flowers. The mites use the hummingbird to transport them from one flower to another.

The mites quickly run onto the beak of a hummingbird while it feeds. They move into the bird's nostrils during transportation.

Later, when the bird feeds at another flower, the mites scurry from the nostrils down the beak and onto the flower.

The birds can carry about 12 dozen mites at the most.

Loss of habitat is a threat to hummers. Placement of feeders would reduce migration stress on these birds.

Use four-part water to one-part sugar solution; use only table sugar and never honey or artificial sugars, to fill the feeder.

You need not add any color or vitamins to the nectar solution. Hummingbirds can also be attracted to a reliable water source such as a mister or dripper.

It is important to keep any nectar feeder clean and filled with fresh solution. Clean your feeder every three to four days. Use only warm or hot water and a soft brush to clean the feeder.

To keep pesky ants out of the feeder, an ant trap can be purchased.

Ant traps are designed to keep ants that crawl up a pole onto the feeder from actually entering the feeder. The ant traps do not necessarily work if ants are jumping from trees onto the feeder.

You can plant brightly colored flowers such as cardinal flowers, lilac, coral or trumpet honeysuckle, bee balm, or fuchsia.

There are many flowers that will grow in this region that provide nectar for the hummingbirds.

Golf, fishing classic set at local course, lake

Golfers and fishermen are invited to take part in the Kansas Wildscape Governor's Golf and Fishing Classic June 16-17 at Milford Lake and Rolling Meadows Golf Course in Junction City.

Participants will play golf on June 16, followed by dinner meal sponsored by the Junction City Area Chamber of Commerce and a Wildscape auction.

Fishing takes place June 17. Participants can bring their own boat or be placed with a guide and boat.

The Classic is a fundraiser for Kansas Wildscape, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing outdoor opportunities for all Kansans.

For entry forms, contact Connie Hall at (785) 238-2885 or by e-mail at chall@junctioncity.org or Kansas Wildscape Foundation at (785) 843-9453.

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Kansas Wildscape officials invite boat owners to be guides in the 9th Annual Governor's Fishing Classic June 17. To be a guide, individuals must provide a boat, fishing and safety equipment and fishing assistance for two anglers. Guides participate for free in the Classic.

A light breakfast and lunch will be provided on June 17. Anglers will be assigned to guides who do not have specific participants who have registered and paid.

Guides are also invited to attend the June 16 dinner and auction. This year's event is dedicated to U.S. troops serving overseas and at home.

Anyone interested in being a guide should contact the Geary County Convention and Visitors Bureau at 823 N. Washington St. or send email to chall@junctioncity.org.

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Travel & Fun in Kansas

Leisuretime ideas

At the movies:

The Barlow Theater doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children 11 and under. Children under age 5 are free except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

April 15 - Million Dollar Baby (PG-13)

April 16 - Diary of a Mad Black Woman (PG-13)

April 17 - Be Cool (PG-13)

April 21 - Diary of a Mad Black Woman (PG-13)

April 22 - Hostage (R)
For more information, call (785)784-2226 or 784-2640.

Manhattan:

What: "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe." Conveys the inspirational magic that has captivated young readers for decades.

When: 3 p.m. April 17

Where: McCain Auditorium

Phone: (785) 532-6428

Admission: Varies

What: Find Your Element Adventure Sports & Music Festival. Three-day event featuring local sports and music with an emphasis on mountain biking and local trails.

When: 3 to 11 p.m. April 22, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. April 23 and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 24

Where: 8800 Road W. in Randolph Fancy Creek State Park

Phone: (785) 776-8829

Admission: Minimal

Junction City:

What: Fishing Tournament. Features a unique format: five different categories for anglers to enter.

When: 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 22-23

Where: 823 N. Washington St.

Phone: (785) 238-2885

Admission: Free

Salina:

What: Over the Tavern. Join the Pazinskis, living above their Buffalo, N.Y., family tavern, in this charming comedy about life and family.

When: April 15-17

Where: 303 E. Iron, Salina Community Theatre

Phone: (785) 827-6126 or (877) 414-2367

Admission: \$18-\$21

Emporia:

What: Seventh annual Super Custom Car Show. Covered by world-wide Lowrider car magazine.

When: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. April 24

Where: 1200 Commercial Sts, Emporia State University, HPER Building

Phone: (620) 341-5331

Admission: Free

Family plotting



Nick Cristiano (left), played by Ross Broecker, endures his grandparents' plotting of his family during a Sunday dinner. Caitlin O'Hare (second from left), played by Megan Myrick, is the feminine bait Nick's grandparents decide to use to stop their grandson from moving away from them. The grandparents are played by (from right) Carolyn Zumburn, Marcus Field, Joseph Miller and Tammi Love.

Play pokes fun at family unity

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

When two sets of Italian grandparents make up their mind to keep their only grandson from leaving Hoboken, N.J., young Nick finds himself in a frustrating family battle.

Will he win and move to that promising new job in Seattle, Wash., or will his grandparents win and keep their family intact on the East Coast?

Anyone wanting to know the answer will have to attend "Over the River and Through the Woods" playing at the

Junction City Little Theater April 21-24. It is the local theater group's final production of the season, following audience-pleasing productions of "Oklahoma," "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" and "Having Their Say." All three productions included Fort Riley-connected cast and crewmembers. "Over the River and Through the Woods" is no exception, even with its small, six-member cast.

Megan Myrick, who plays the feminine bait the grandparents use to interest their grandson in staying in Hoboken, starred in "The Best Christmas Pageant

Ever." Marcus Field, a retired Soldier, has played in several little theater productions the past couple of years.

Randy Dykstra, a Fort Riley Soldier's spouse, steps off the Junction City Little Theater stage to direct his first production for Kansas' longest-running little theater group, tracing its history back more than 50 years.

Experienced thespians Joseph Miller, Tammi Love, Carolyn Zumburn and Ross Broecker round out the talented cast whose early rehearsals promised an entertaining and laugh-filled show for local audiences.

If you go:

"Over the River and Through the Woods," by Joe DiPietro plays at 8 p.m. April 21-23 and at 2 p.m. April 24.

The Junction City Little Theater is on 18th Street near the Buffalo Soldier Memorial. Tickets cost \$10 for adults and \$7 for children attending high school and younger. Children sitting on parents' laps admitted free.

Tickets can be bought at the door or reserved in advance by calling 238-6220.

'Nuns' show nonsense in upcoming production

Manhattan Arts Center
Special to the Post

"Nonsense," a musical by Dan Goggin, will be performed at the Manhattan Arts Center April 29 through May 1 and May 5 through 9 with Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.

"Inspired madness" may be the best way to describe this zany award-winning musical.

The Little Sisters of Hoboken are putting on a fundraiser to raise money so they can bury sisters accidentally poisoned by the convent cook.

Surprising talents emerge as the sisters kick up their heels in a merry musical romp. An international hit, the show

won four Outer Critics Circle awards, including Best Off-Broadway Musical for the original production.

Cast members for "Nonsense" are Amy Epperly, Rachel Koch, Trista Lee Stone, Amy Webb and Cindy Wichman.

Tickets for the performance are \$14 for adults, \$10 for students and \$6 for children and Thursday and Sunday student walks-ins. The Arts Center now offers \$2 off adult ticket prices to members of the military showing their ID card.

For information and reservations, call 537-4420. The Manhattan Arts Center is located at 1520 Poyntz.

For more information, visit www.manhattanarts.org on the Web.

Expo to offer travel ideas ITR manager arranges travel extravaganza

By Austin Meek
Staff writer

Soldiers and their families can experience the great outdoors or plan a weekend getaway at Fort Riley's Outdoor and Travel Expo on May 7 at Riley's Conference Center.

The outdoor portion of the expo will feature boats, campers, jet skis and four-wheelers, according to Teresa Mayes, manager of Fort Riley's Information, Ticketing and Registration office.

Outdoor Recreation also will display some of its rental equipment, Mayes said.

The travel portion of the expo will consist of 50 booths with information about various tourist attractions, Mayes said.

She expects to have representatives from many of the nation's top travel destinations on hand, including Disneyland, Six Flags St. Louis and Branson, Mo.

The Armed Forces Vacation Club, which provides condo rentals for Soldiers, also will have a

booth at the expo.

Mayes said the expo will feature some of Kansas' top tourist attractions as well. "The Kansas Cosmosphere in Hutchinson and Heartland Park in Topeka will have booths at the show," she said. "We'll also have representatives from the Convention and Visitors Bureaus in Junction City and Abilene."

Mayes said the expo will be entertaining as well as informative.

"The show will have a lot of entertainment," she said. "We'll have food booths, door prizes and a fishing pond for the kids. It's very family oriented."

The door prizes include Country Stampede tickets and a gift basket from Universal Studios, Mayes said.

The Outdoor and Travel Expo is free to the public and sponsored by the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation. The expo will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Anyone wishing to reserve booth space at the expo can contact ITR at 239-6398.

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